Convergence, which is considering the proposed draft of the Communication Convergence Bill, is awaited.

The draft of the Bill *inter alia* envisages the establishment of a single autonomous and statutory body to be known as the Communications Commission of India to regulate the carriage and content of communications (including telecommunications, broadcasting and multimedia). As per the proposals contained in the draft Bill, the Commission would *inter alia* be empowered to issue licences, determine licence fees and tariffs for licensed services, allot spectrum, facilitate competition, protect consumer interests, etc.

Rectification of Bijanbari Exchanges, Darjeeling

2606. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 60 Exchanges of Bijanbari, Darjeeling can hardly by accessed from outside; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken for getting the defects rectified permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, there is only one Exchange working at present with Level "60" at Bijanbari, Darjeeling. Due to certain problem in the Exchange/Transmission media, the accessibility of this Exchange from outside is affected.

(b) In order to overcome this problem, the work of setting up 1000 Lines CDOT Exchange at Bijanbari, Darjeeling along with STD connectivity by Digital Microwave Link to Darjeeling is under progress and is likely to be completed by 31.03.2001, subject to availability of Electrical power, to ensure smooth access in both ways.

Appointment of Chief Post Master General for Manipur Nagaland and Mizoram

2607. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to keep a Chief Post Master General for Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram separate from Shillong;